

## Always Remember

### **Wear your safety belt.**

Statistics show safety belts save lives – and most crashes occur within 10 miles of home – so even if you're just running to the store, buckle yourself in.

Need another reason to buckle up? Missouri's Graduated Driver's License Law requires all drivers holding a permit or an intermediate license – and all passengers – to wear a safety belt at all times when operating a motor vehicle. If you're driving, never pack more people into the car than there are safety belts to restrain them.

### **Don't drink and drive.**

Underage drinking is against the law. It is illegal for anyone under 21 to purchase, possess or consume ANY amount of alcohol in ANY situation. Under Missouri's Zero Tolerance Law your license will be suspended if you're caught driving with even a trace of alcohol in your system – that means less than one drink can put you over the limit.

Some tips:

- Whatever you do, DO NOT attempt to drive yourself home, even if you think you're okay.
- Ask a friend who hasn't had any alcohol to give you a ride. A designated driver is the person who has had NO alcohol.
- If you and all your friends have been drinking, call a parent, older sibling or even a cab. Everyone will be glad you chose the safe way home.
- If you've been drinking at a friend's house, staying where you are is always safer than gambling with your own life and the lives of others.
- See a friend stumbling to their car? Get their keys and find them a safe way home. You could be saving their life.

**To report an emergency or unsafe driving,  
call the Missouri State Highway Patrol at  
800-525-5555 or  
\*55 on your cell phone.  
Or, contact your local law enforcement agency.**



Missouri Department of Transportation  
Highway Safety Division  
P.O. Box 270  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

**573-751-4161**  
**800-800-BELT**  
www.modot.org

# getting there

Strategies for Young Drivers



Missouri Department  
of Transportation

# Rules of the Road

Traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for people 15 to 20 years old.

Some of the leading causes of these crashes are:

- Exceeding the speed limit or traveling too fast for road conditions,
- Inattention – distractions that take your attention away from the roadway,
- Not staying on your side of the roadway or not utilizing appropriate lanes of traffic for turning,
- Drinking and driving, and
- Nonuse of safety belts.

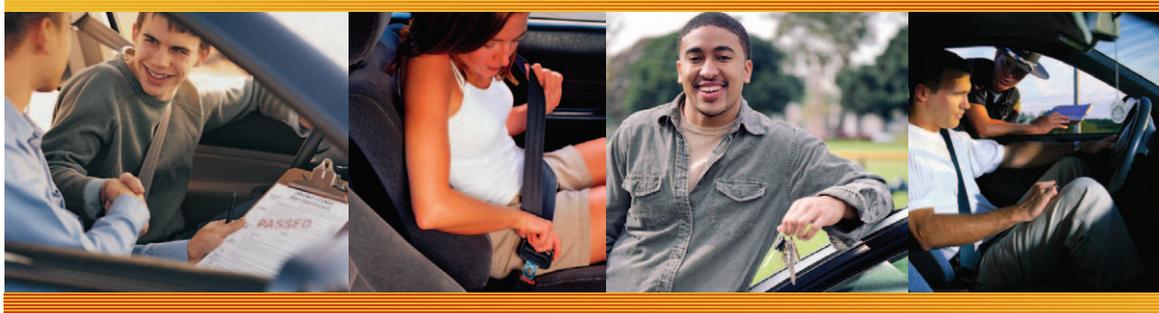
## Obey the speed limit.

Speeding is a major cause of traffic crashes. You should always obey the posted speed limit. More drivers are convicted of speeding than any other offense.

Remember, this will affect your ability to apply for your full license under “graduated drivers licensing” and can also affect your insurance rates.

Some important things to remember about your driving speed:

- Always drive at a safe speed. The speed limit is the maximum speed allowed under normal conditions. Adjust your speed to take into account your driving ability, the capability of your vehicle, the roadway and weather conditions.
- Slow down in rain, fog, snow and ice, and keep at least twice the normal stopping distance between you and the vehicle in front of you.
- Slow down when approaching curves, intersections, downhill grades, heavy traffic and work zones.



## Lane usage and turns.

Many traffic crashes occur because people do not stay on their side of the roadway or they make turns incorrectly.

Some tips:

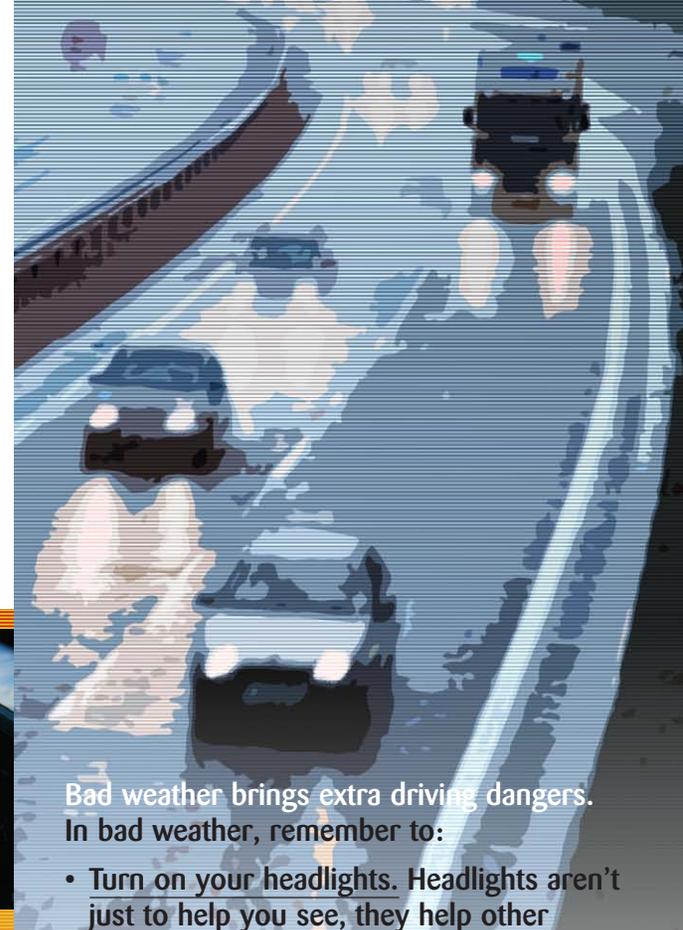
- Make sure you are in a legal passing zone before passing another vehicle. It is illegal to pass on the right or the shoulder of the roadway.
- Use turn signals about 100 feet before the turn or intersection and when changing lanes.
- Make sure your vehicle is in the proper lane for turning. Do not cross over into another lane of traffic.
- Slow down appropriately (or stop, if it's required) before making a turn.
- Pay attention to your lane position, keeping your vehicle in the center of your lane.
- Do not pass on hills, curves or at intersections.

## Give driving your full attention.

Distracted drivers are more likely to be involved in a traffic crash. You can be distracted by anything that takes your attention away from the task of driving.

Some tips:

- Pull off of the road to find a safe place to talk on the cell phone or look for items in the vehicle.
- Program radio stations or make CD selections before you get on the road.
- Do not let others ride with you if they distract you.
- Never read while you are driving.
- Plan your trip before you leave and get directions to your destination.
- Do not put on makeup, shave or eat while driving.



Bad weather brings extra driving dangers. In bad weather, remember to:

- **Turn on your headlights.** Headlights aren't just to help you see, they help other drivers see you. Missouri law requires the use of headlights anytime the weather conditions necessitate use of the motor vehicle's windshield wipers to see clearly, during periods of fog or under other low-visibility conditions.
- **Double the distance you normally leave between you and the next car.** You'll need more space to stop suddenly on slick roads.
- **When driving on slippery surfaces like ice or snow, use gentle pressure on the accelerator pedal when starting.** If your wheels start to spin, let up on the accelerator until your tires regain traction.
- **Don't use cruise control when driving in wet or snowy conditions.**